

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Evergreen

AND/OR COMMON

Evergreen

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

State Route 10, State Route 644

CITY, TOWN

Hopewell

☒ VICINITY OF

Fourth (Robert W. Daniel, Jr.)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Prince George

CODE

149

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Inge Walker Sonuparlak

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Evergreen Farm

CITY, TOWN

Hopewell

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 23860

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Prince George County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Prince George

STATE

Virginia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)**

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1959

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Evergreen, a late Georgian/early Federal-style house, is sited on a graciously landscaped estate off state route 644 in Prince George County. Erected ca. 1807, the stucco-covered brick dwelling is a two-story, central-hall-plan structure covered by a hipped roof.

Set on a high basement, the main (west) elevation consists of a five-bay facade. The facade is dominated by a one-story pedimented Doric portico set on a brick podium. The portico replaces an earlier one and was added during extensive restoration in the 1930s. The portico shelters a transom and sidelight entry with a raised-panel door. Pilasters frame the central bay and the corners of the elevation, giving the house an exceptionally formal air. Fenestration consists of 9/9 hung sash, within simply executed frames. This replaces the original 6/6 hung sash. All windows have flanking shutters. A Doric cornice runs the perimeter of all the building's elevations.

The garden (east) elevation duplicates the treatment of the west elevation with the exception of an enclosed sun porch. The porch, added in the 20th century, covers the middle bays of the first story. The south elevation consists of three bays, framed by pilasters. Fenestration consists of 9/9 windows, with the exception of the middle bay, which contains smaller openings of 6/9 windows. The openings of the middle bay date to the thirties' renovation. Both the north and south elevations contain original semi-interior end chimneys. The north elevation is dominated by an enclosed sun porch on the first story. The elevation is similar in treatment to the south.

In the early part of the 20th century, the house became vacant and gradually deteriorated. The interior of the house was extensively damaged when it was converted into a barn and stable. Reclaimed in the late 1930s, the interior was extensively renovated. A new stair and paneling were added at this time.

The grounds surrounding the house are planted with large trees and holly. The view is scenic, extending to the tidal flats of the James River.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

RCC

Evergreen, a property of four acres, is bounded on the east by state route 644, on the south and west by a drive which extends past the front of the house, and on the north by a line that forms a boundary between the drive and the state road. The nominated property, a fraction of the original Ruffin family holdings in the 18th and 19th centuries, includes the main dwelling in an appropriate setting.

# 18 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1790-1810

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Evergreen is noted for its associations with the Ruffin family, who established themselves there in the mid-18th century. The present Georgian-style dwelling was probably erected in 1807-08 by George Ruffin (1765-1810). It was owned during the mid-19th century by his son-in-law, Harrison Cocke, sometime Confederate naval captain in command of the James River Naval Defenses. The house was assessed and valued as one of the finest quality homes in Prince George County and vicinity according to antebellum tax and insurance records. Evergreen remains one of the principal plantations along the south side of the James River.

Because of the destruction of Prince George records during the Civil War, the early history of the property is difficult to document. The first record of Ruffin ownership of Evergreen dates from 1788 when Edmund Ruffin, Sr., (1713-1790), was charged with 434 acres. Ruffin apparently was a prosperous planter as indicated by the large number of slaves left in his estate. Although he maintained his residence at Evergreen probably from the mid-18th century, any archaeological evidence of his house is believed to have been significantly disturbed when the grounds around the present house were regraded in the present century.

Ruffin's son Edmund Ruffin, Jr., (1745-1807), established his home at Coggin's Point, an adjacent plantation. Evergreen thus passed to Ruffin's grandson George (1765-1810). The tax records of 1795 show the 434 acres being charged to George Ruffin. The first documented references to the present dwelling appear in an 1808 Mutual Assurance Society policy which describes the house as being 55 by 33 feet, brick and with a slate roof.<sup>1</sup> The house was probably recently completed as the amount indicated to replace it was \$9,100, an exceptionally large amount for the period, and one that would not likely be placed on a house of any age.

The slate roof alone indicates the house's quality; not one in a hundred of all the Virginia countryhouses insured in the early 19th century had such luxurious roofing. Further evidence of Evergreen's prominence is its appearance among the select group of private residences recorded on the Madison map of 1818. Evergreen, including its out-buildings, was valued at \$3,000 in the tax records of 1820, Upper and Lower Brandon being the only houses in the county assessed at higher value.

In addition to being a planter, George Ruffin served in the House of Delegates from 1803 to 1806. He also sat on various statewide committees including one in 1800 to oversee the Presidential election. George Ruffin's son was Edmund Ruffin, III, (1794-1865), the noted agriculturalist and ardent secessionist. Edmund Ruffin, III, never lived at Evergreen as an adult, although it is highly likely that he was born there.

Around 1832 Evergreen was conveyed by George H. Ruffin (son of George Ruffin) to his half-sister Elizabeth's husband, Harrison H. Cocke. Cocke was originally from Montpelier in Surry County (nominated to the National Register) and served as a captain in the U.S.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Prince George Land Tax Books, 1782-1863.

Mutual Assurance Society policies, Reel 5, V. 45, #2186 (1816); V. 47, #343 (1808).

William & Mary Quarterly, V. 18, p. 253-257.

Prince George County Deeds and Wills, p. 530 (1891).

Va. Magazine of History & Biography, V. 4, p. 332, V. 5, p. 188.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,8 3,0,1,3,5,0 4,1,2,9,2,6,0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C         

QUADRANGLE NAME Westover, Va.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D         

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point 2000' S of James River, 4400' W of State Route 156 and approximately 4600' NW of the intersection of State Routes 156 and 10; thence extending 450' E to W side of State Route 644; thence extending 400' S along said side of said route to N side of private drive; thence extending 400' W along said side of private drive; thence following curve of said drive turning N and extending about 400' to point of origin.

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

May 1979

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE X

LOCAL   

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE MAY 15 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Evergreen, Prince George County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6 & 8 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1968, 1979 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Navy. Following the outbreak of the war he transferred to the Confederate Navy and was appointed by General Lee to survey the James River defenses and set up defensive batteries. He later served as Commanding Officer of the James River defenses. Cocke made various improvements to Evergreen as indicated by increases in property taxes. He apparently had the house elegantly furnished, for among the entries in his account book is an 1849 bill for a "sculpture figure of Ariadne."<sup>2</sup>

After the war Cocke sold Evergreen and moved to Dinwiddie County, leaving an undated, detailed description of the plantation. Probably writing around the time of the sale in 1866 he referred to Evergreen as a "beautiful farm...with an extensive waterfront.... Family residence is a large double two-story brick building, well built and stuccoed with eight rooms and a kitchen exclusive of the basement....Acreage is 1447 acres...well adapted to culture of tobacco, wheat, corn and grain."<sup>3</sup>

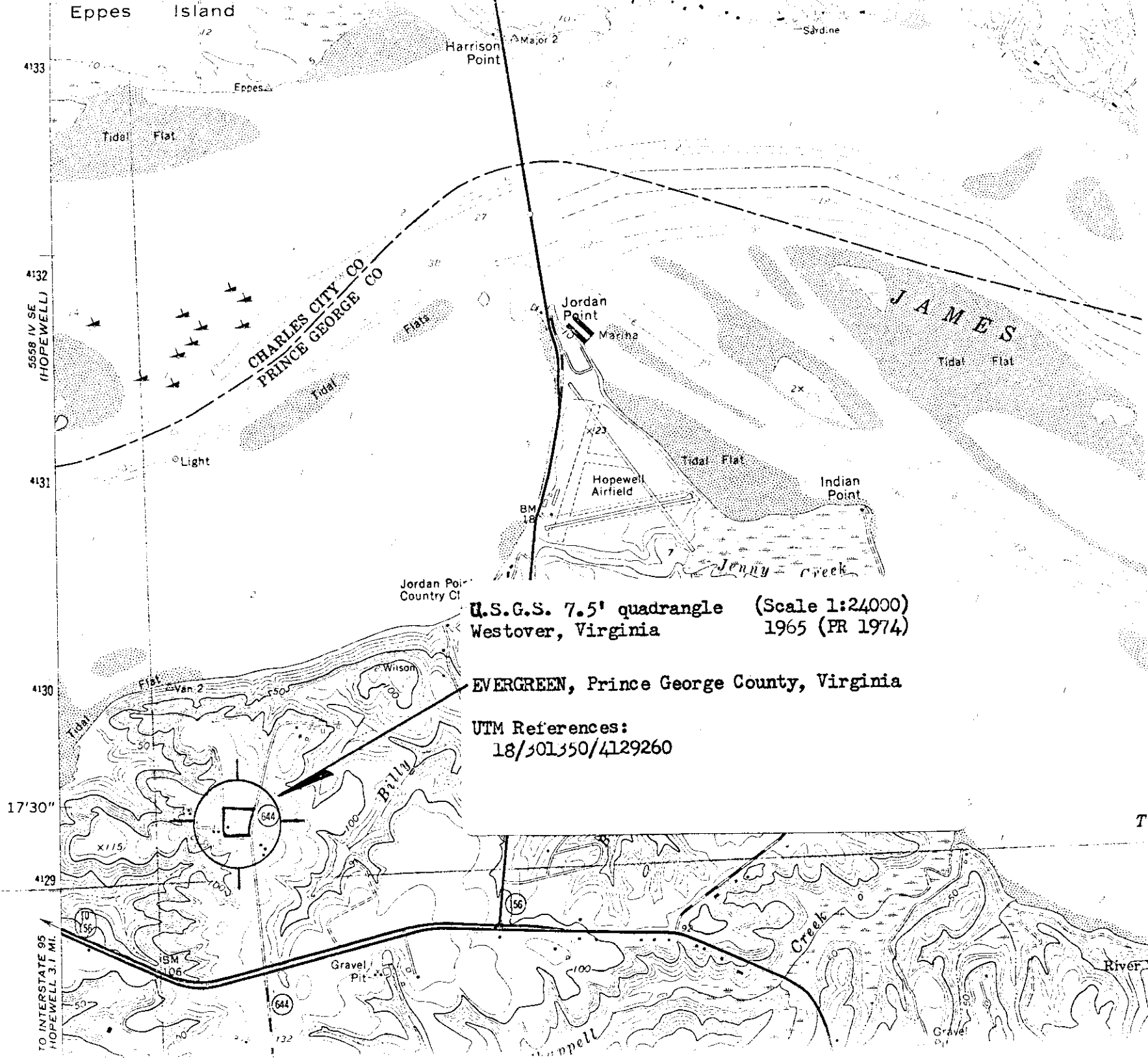
While the interior of the house has been largely retrimmed, having fallen into decay during the early part of the present century, the exterior appears similar to that noted in Cocke's description. The house is stylistically transitional in that it incorporates late Georgian together with Federal detail. Although the porches are later replacements, they replace similar ones noted on the Mutual Assurance Society policy of 1816.

MTP/CCL/RCC

<sup>1</sup>Mutual Assurance Society, Policy Reel 5, V. 47, #343 (1808).

<sup>2</sup>Cocke Family Papers, Account Book, Virginia Historical Society.

<sup>3</sup>Cocke Family Papers, Section 9, #122, n.d., Virginia Historical Society.



CHARLES CITY CO  
PRINCE GEORGE CO

JAMES

U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (Scale 1:24000)  
Westover, Virginia 1965 (PR 1974)

EVERGREEN, Prince George County, Virginia

UTM References:  
18/501350/4129260